

# THE BRAZIL MISSION

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THE evangelization and Christian education of Brazil is one of the greatest opportunities and duties of the present day offered to the evangelical churches of North America. I make this statement deliberately and with emphasis, and ask a careful consideration of the facts that warrant such an opinion.

The immense territory, the amazing fertility of the soil, the mild climate, the very diverse and enormous natural resources of Brazil, destine it to be the home of a mighty multitude of human beings in the not distant future. Under the Brazilian flag is one-sixteenth of the land surface of the earth, one-fifth of the American continent, one-half of South America. It is larger than Russia in Europe, still larger than the United States, yet still larger than China proper; and a careful examination of its resources will demonstrate that it is capable of supporting in comfort a much larger population than any one of the above-mentioned countries.

The fertility of the larger part of the Brazilian soil is indeed marvelous. To one accustomed to the abundant verdure, the luxuriant growth, the mighty forests of even Southern Brazil, the verdure and forests of our Southland seem to be very meager and small. Though largely within the tropics, Brazil has a temperate climate, and the heat, though continuous, is seldom as great as in our country in the months of July and August. This can be said of even Para, directly on the equator. But the



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temperature of the coast of Brazil must not be attributed to the highlands of the interior. There are great sections in the interior where, on the whole, life is more pleasant even to a European than in the United States. He will miss here the extremes of heat and cold met with there. And given the same aspirations and moral character, work can be carried on as energetically here as there.

A mild statement of the resources of Brazil is apt to subject one to the charge of exaggeration. But there is little danger of exaggeration.

Brazil, properly peopled and developed, could furnish the world for ages to come not only with all the coffee and sugar and cocoa that it may need, but also in the same measure with rubber, beef, butter, cheese, hides, cotton, corn, beans, rice, fine woods, iron, gold, diamonds, and I know not what. The lowland plain of the mighty Amazon, two million five hundred thousand square miles in extent, is the home of the Syringueira, the great rubber-producing tree. Another rubber-bearing tree, the Mangabeira, is found on all the sand ridges of Central and Southern Brazil. Still another, the Manicoba, can be cultivated as easily and as successfully as the coffee tree. The cattle-raising possibilities of Brazil, and all collateral industries, go far beyond all possible statement. Nowhere can finer beef cattle be raised with less expense. The same can be said of almost all the smaller animals. The flora of Brazil is the richest in the world, and its mineral resources will be found equal to any.

Brazil today needs only a God-fearing, God-loving, God-inspired, and God-energized people to make it the fairest, the richest, the happiest, the mightiest land on earth. People, Brazil will get. Africa and Brazil, the two great unknown and undeveloped regions, will be peopled. The question, however, is: Will the Christian churches stand idly by and see formed these



METHODIST CHURCH AND PARSONAGE IN PETROPOLIS.

Rev. E. A. Tilly is standing in the door of the church. The first floor of the parsonage is rented for a drug store. The church building is interesting because it was formerly a great gambling center.

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mighty peoples of the future to be ruled over and victimized and cursed by the devil and every devilish passion and principle; or will they with divine wisdom and love and faith step in now and see to it that, with the opening up and forward movement of these lands, the foundations of mighty spiritual kingdoms be laid in the name and for the sake of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ?

Rome and the devil have held Brazil for four hundred years. At last the opportunity has come to evangelize the people; and this opportunity has come just as the country is being largely opened up to foreign emigration and modern movements on a large scale. If the opportunity is not seized now, the problem and task for the Church of Christ later on will be very different



and a thousandfold more difficult—something like the problem and task in China.

In 1836 an effort was made to establish a Methodist mission in Brazil. Fanaticism was too bitter, and the effort failed. After some years the Presbyterians began work there, but the conditions were still such that progress was very difficult and slow. About twenty-six years ago the Baptist and Methodist Churches entered the field. Fanaticism was still very strong, and results of earnest work continued to be meager for some time. For thirteen years the Methodists worked and prayed, and there were only nineteen converts annually.

During the last twelve years, however, we have had two hundred and eighty converts each year. But if we limit our view to the last four years, we will see that some fifteen hundred souls have been converted in that short period, and the indications for this year are that one thousand converts will be added to the Church. To appreciate these figures it must be remembered that after twenty-six years we have only forty preachers at work. The progress of the other churches has been very much the same.

What is better than the actual number of converts is the great change in the spirit and attitude of the people toward the propagation of the gospel. The old fanaticism has largely disappeared; distrust and suspicion have given way in many places to confidence and esteem, indifference and opposition to interest and even desire on the part of many to hear the blessed gospel of the Son of God. The change is so great that we can say gladly and positively that the gospel can be preached successfully and with ever increasing results in Brazil. We go farther and say confidently that Brazil can be largely evangelized in a very short period if the churches of America are ready and willing to put a sufficient evangelistic force in the field and do the educational work that is necessary. Every Methodist missionary and native



A BRICKYARD IN BRAZIL.

In front are the ox carts that are in general use in the country. The oxen are guided by small boys who walk in front with a long stick that rests on the yoke of the front oxen.

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preacher is announcing the gospel as widely and as fast as time and strength will allow, and everywhere disciples are being gained to the Lord Jesus. But the number of workers is so small!

We face the great and glorious task of evangelizing a great country and building up a mighty spiritual kingdom for our Lord with some forty workers and a small educational institution for boys that has not yet passed beyond the primary and high school stage. With this small force, that took twenty-six years to grow to its present size, much has been done; yea, marvels have been wrought. What could not be done if Southern Methodism would put a hundred faithful missionaries in the field and establish a

great college and university where the Granbery Primary and High School have laid the foundations!

By a comparison with the other foreign mission fields of our Church, we find that some forty per cent of the converts under our Church in foreign lands are found in the Brazil Mission, while of the total increase in numbers in these foreign lands last year about seventy per cent were in Brazil. These Brazilian converts show the genuineness of their faith and love by their labors and sacrifices and offerings in the cause of the Lord. More is done in Brazil for self-support than in any other mission field.

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THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT OF GRANBERY COLLEGE, JUIZ DE FORA, BRAZIL.

Rev. E. A. Tilly, Rev. J. M. Lander and Rev. W. B. Lee in front; the Brazilian students standing behind.

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We now beg attention to the facts noted in this article: The great territory of Brazil; its wonderful natural resources; the certainty of its rapid development in population, wealth, and influence among the nations; the amount and quality of results already obtained in mission work; the great change in the mind and spirit of the people; and the religious awakening spreading over the whole country, manifested by a remarkable increase in the sale and distribution of the Scriptures and the warm welcome

given to the missionaries nearly everywhere, and in many places the invitations sent to them to come and preach the gospel. Now, on the basis of these facts, could we not justly ask: Is there not reason for the Church to do more in comparison for Brazil than for any other of its mission fields? But, whether this conclusion is reached or not, we ask: Ought not the Church to meet nobly and courageously the present need, the present wonderful opportunity of evangelizing and educating, for Christ's kingdom on earth and God's kingdom in glory, the present and coming millions of souls in the great and wealthy and ever-blooming land of the Southern Cross? Let missionaries be given to Brazil and an educational plant worthy of the mighty and holy end we have in view, and God and his Church will not be disappointed.

